

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Notice of Final Public Meeting and Public Comment for a Total Maximum
Daily Load Study in Pettit Branch, Accomack County

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will host a public meeting on a water quality study for Pettit Branch, located in Accomack County, on **Tuesday February 23, 2010**.

The meeting will start at **1:00 p.m.** in the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission office located at 23372 Front Street Accomac, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and discuss the study with interested local community members and local government.

Pettit Branch (VAT-D02R-01) was identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired for not supporting the Aquatic Life Use. The impairment is based on biological monitoring data of the stream's benthic community. Virginia agencies are working to identify the stressors that are affecting the benthic communities in this Creek.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia, require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report and subsequent Water Quality Assessment Reports.

During the study, DEQ will develop a Total Maximum Daily Load for the impaired water. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, pollutant levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

The public comment period on materials presented at this meeting will extend from February 24, 2010 through March 25, 2010. For additional information or to submit comments, contact Jennifer Howell, in the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Tidewater Regional Office, 5636 Southern Blvd, Virginia Beach VA 23462, by phone (757) 518-2111 or by e-mail jennifer.howell@deq.virginia.gov.

* Additional information is also available on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.